

## Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

/106 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 087184

R 272153Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINDEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 27, 197

QUOTE: Q. THE SECRETARY, ON THE SCHEDULE TODAY, IS MEETING WITH THE SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE MATTER OF BLACKLISING SOME AMERICAN FIRMS WOULD EXPECT TO BE RAISED DURING THAT MEETING?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. THIS IS A MEETING THAT WAS ARRANGED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. AND, AS WE KNOW, THE SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER, ABA AL-KHAIL, HEADED THEIR SIDE. AND I THINK THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS FOR THE SECRETARY TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTER THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE. WHAT SPECIFIC SUBJECTS MAY BE TAKEN UP, I DO NOT KNOW. WE WILL TRY AND GET A READOUT FOR YOU AFTER THE MEETING IS OVER.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT CAME UP-

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WHETHER THE SECRETARY RAISED IT, OR WHETHER THE SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER MADE ANY REFERENCE TO IT?

A. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT IT. BUT, FRANKLY, ON THIS SUBJECT, SO MUCH HAS BEEN SAID IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT I DO NOT SEE WHY THE SECRETARY WOULD NECESSARILY PLAN TO BRING IT UP. HE HAS SPOKEN TO THE SUBJECT. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE YESTERDAY, AS WE KNOW, IN A VERY STRONG

MANNER. AND I, FRANKLY, WOULDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE RAISED BY THE SECRETARY. BUT WHETHER IT COMES UP OR NOT I WILL TRY AND FIND OUT FOR YOU.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY OFFERED ISRAEL \$250 MILLION AS A SUBSIDY TO BUY OIL FROM IRAN?

A. I SAW THIS ARTICLE IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING. YESTERDAY THERE WAS SOME ARTICLE SOMEPLACE ABOUT OTHER AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I'M SURE THERE WILL BE CONTINUED SPECULATION -- PARTICULARLY, PRIOR TO THE TRIP. ALL I WANT TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT IS: THE SECRETARY IS GOING OUT THERE NEXT WEEK. HE'S NOT GOING OUT THERE WITH ANY PLAN WHATSOEVER. AS WE SAID EARLIER, HE NOW BELIEVES HE SEES THE PARAMETERS OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT, THE FRAMEWORK OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. HE IS NOW GOING TO TALK WITH THE PARTIES TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAILS ON THE RESPECTIVE THINKING OF THE PARTIES. AND I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON VARIOUS SPECULATIONS THAT, OBVIOUSLY, WILL CONTINUE TO BE RAISED.

Q. ARE YOU TERMING THIS REPORT AS SPECULATION?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ANY. I'M TELLING YOU HE HAS NO CONCEIVED PLAN OF HIS OWN AS HE HEADS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. LET'S LEAVE IT THERE.

Q. WELL, THIS SAYS RATHER SPECIFICALLY THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY THAT THE U.S. HAD AGREED TO BUY \$250 MILLION WORTH OF OIL FOR ISRAEL.

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A. I JUST HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. YESTERDAY I ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES KNEW WHAT THE CURRENT SYRIAN POSITION IS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, IN VIEW OF THE DENIAL OF THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW ON WHICH THE SECRETARY HAS COMMENTED. I WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANY CLEARER IDEA TODAY AS TO WHAT SYRIA'S POSITION, IN FACT, IS?

A. NO, I DON'T. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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